

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/663,376

Examiner

Emily Y. Chan

Applicant(s)

SUGAWARA, SHINICHI

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 12-23-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3,4,7 and 8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4 and 7-8 allowed over the prior art.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: regarding to claims 3-4, the reasons for the allowance of the claim are due to the amended claim 3 by the examiner's amendment blow with specific detail of an eccentric bearing mounted in the rotary guide plate and a fixed guide pin is inserted in the eccentric bearing. The prior art does not teach or suggest a probe card with the structure that an eccentric bearing is mounted in the rotary guide plate and a fixed guide pin is inserted in the eccentric bearing. The persuasive arguments is found on the "Remarks" section on pages 2-3. Claims 7-8 are allowable because they incorporate the allowable features in claims 2 and 5 respectively indicated allowable on previous office action dated on 8-23-04.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney Mr. James Walters on 2-24-05.

The following amendment is being made to place the application in condition for allowance.

1. Claims 1-2 and 9-10 have been cancelled.
2. Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

Claim 3 (currently amended) A probe card of a measuring apparatus for a semiconductor device comprising:

an electrically-conductive linear probe needle whose bottom end contacts with the device under test, a circuit board with which the upper end of the probe needle is connected electrically, an upper guide plate held horizontally and firmly near the middle point between the upper end and the center of said probe needle and having a guide hole to guide said probe needle, a lower guide plate held horizontally and firmly near the middle point between the center and the bottom end of said probe needle and having a guide hole to guide said probe needle, a rotary guide plate held horizontally and movably near the center of said probe needle and having a guide hole to guide said probe needle, an initial-position holding means to hold said rotary guide plate temporary and firmly at the initial position where said probe needle is straight, a movable holding means to hold movably said rotary guide plate at the position where the center of said probe needle bent, a driving means to rotate said rotary guide plate in the horizontal plane, wherein an eccentric bearing is mounted in said rotary guide plate and said movable holding means is the fixed guide pin inserted in said eccentric bearing.

3. In claim 4, line 1, "claim 1" has been changed to "claim 3".

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Y. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-1956. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 571-272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EC
3-1-05


VINH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A.U. 2829
03/02/05